

MINUTES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Tuesday, April 18, 2006

3:45 p.m.

Room 307 House Office Building, Lansing

Representative Nitz, Chair, called the meeting to order.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Representatives Nitz, Ball, Newell, Casperson, Stahl, Proos, Hune, Mayes, Spade, Kathleen Law, Sheltroun. (11/11)

Representative Spade made a motion to adopt the minutes of the meeting of March 21, 2006, supported by Representative Hune. No objections being offered, a unanimous ballot was cast to accept the minutes as presented.

The Chair laid SB 777 before the Committee.

SB 777 Van Woerkom Agriculture; other; seeds, preempt regulation of by local ordinance.

Senator VanWoerkom spoke to the Committee regarding the provisions of SB 777 and answered questions.

The following individuals spoke to the Committee regarding SB 777:

Michelle Lutz, representing the Maple Creek Farm, in opposition
Alan Spice, representing Pioneer Hi-Bred, in support
Dr. Wayne Loescher, representing Michigan State University, in support
Alan Garner, representing himself, in support
Pat Feldpausch, representing the Michigan Corn Growers Association, in support
Tonia Ritter, representing the Michigan Farm Bureau, in support
Kate Madigan, representing the Michigan Environmental Council, in opposition
Joe Scrimger, representing the Michigan Thumb Organics, in opposition
Randy Hampshire, representing the Hampshire Farm, in opposition
Jim Graham, representing the Michigan Farmers Union, in opposition
David Bertram, representing the Michigan Townships Association, expressed concerns with differences in the Senate-passed version (S-3) and the House substitute (H-1).
Amy Frankmann, representing the Michigan Nursery and Landscape Association, in support of an H-1 substitute of the bill
Jim Byrum, representing the Michigan Agri-Business Association, in support

Cards for SB 777 were submitted by:

Jody Pollock, representing the Michigan Corn Growers Association, in support
Liesl Clark, representing the Michigan Department of Agriculture, indicating a neutral position on the bill

Claire O'Leary Maitre, representing the Sierra Club Genetic Engineering Committee,
in opposition

Dick Davis, representing the Crossroads Organic Farms, in opposition
Judith Bommer, representing the Allen Neighborhood Center, in opposition
Marie Stanyar, representing herself, in opposition
Pam O'Connor-Waldecker, representing herself, in opposition
Kirk Profit, representing the City of Ann Arbor, in opposition to the Senate-passed
version

Ben Kudwa, representing the Potato Growers of Michigan, Inc., in support
Bob Tadsen, representing the Michigan Agri-Business Association, in support
Joe Alam, representing himself, in opposition
Elizabeth Forest, representing Fair Food Matters, in opposition
Mary LaFrance, representing the Lakeplain Prairie Organic Farm, no position stated
on card
Cristin Arayana Larson, representing Consumer Advocacy, in opposition
Sandy Nordmark, representing herself, in opposition
Richard Stackey, representing himself and organic farmers, in opposition

Representative Mayes made a motion to adopt SB 777 (H-1), supported by Representative Stahl.

FAVORABLE ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Representatives Nitz, Ball, Newell, Casperson, Stahl, Proos, Hune, Mayes, Spade, Kathleen Law, Sheltroun. (11/11)

Nays: None. (0/11)

Pass: None. (0/11) (11/0/0)

A sufficient number of members voting in the affirmative, the motion prevailed.

Representative Proos made a motion to amend SB 777 (H-1) as follows, supported by Representative Casperson.

1. Amend page 2, line 3, after "(1)" by inserting "**EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THIS SECTION,**".

FAVORABLE ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Representatives Nitz, Ball, Newell, Casperson, Stahl, Proos, Hune, Mayes, Spade, Kathleen Law, Sheltroun. (11/11)

Nays: None. (0/11)

Pass: None. (0/11) (11/0/0)

A sufficient number of members voting in the affirmative, the motion prevailed.

Standing Committee on Agriculture

Representative Ball made a motion to amend SB 777 (H-1) as follows, supported by Representative Sheltroun.

1. Amend page 3, following line 10, by inserting:

“(6) THIS SECTION DOES NOT LIMIT THE AUTHORITY OF A LOCAL UNIT OF GOVERNMENT UNDER 1941 PA 359, MCL 247.61 TO 247.72.”.

FAVORABLE ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Representatives Nitz, Ball, Newell, Casperson, Stahl, Proos, Hune, Mayes, Spade, Kathleen Law, Sheltroun. (11/11)

Nays: None. (0/11)

Pass: None. (0/11) (11/0/0)

A sufficient number of members voting in the affirmative, the motion prevailed.

Representative Mayes made a motion to report SB 777 (H-3) with recommendation, supported by Representative Proos.

FAVORABLE ROLL CALL:

Yeas: Representatives Nitz, Ball, Newell, Casperson, Stahl, Proos, Hune, Mayes, Spade, Sheltroun. (10/11)

Nays: Representative Kathleen Law. (1/11)

Pass: None. (1/11) (10/1/0)

A sufficient number of members voting in the affirmative, the motion prevailed.

There being no additional business before the Committee, Chair Nitz declared the meeting adjourned, the time being 5:57 p.m.

Representative Neal Nitz, Chair

Catherine Petroskey, Committee Clerk
(517) 373-8538